



Perris Press Release

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Multicultural Festival Scheduled for September 25

The City's fourth annual multi-cultural festival takes place Sept. 25 and features a parade down D Street with floats, bands and equestrian units followed by dancing and a sit-down lunch with representatives of Perris' sister city in Michoacan.

Last year's festival drew more than 2,000 visitors and City officials expect the upcoming event will draw even more, as it is part of the City's ongoing Centennial celebration.

"This is a great event for the City and the citizens of Perris because it brings us all together," said Mayor Daryl Busch. "We always have a great turnout and a great time."

Busch will read a proclamation in support of the parade and festival, which is being organized in conjunction with the TODEC Legal Center in Perris, which works to provide health and dental care for families and offers citizenship classes and English as a second language courses to its clients.

Redevelopment Project Coordinator Veronica Arana said the parade down D Street takes place from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., followed by the festival, which runs to 5 p.m. The cost to attend the parade and festival is free.

Food and other vendors will be offering a variety of fare for sale on the City Hall Campus. Proceeds from the vendor sales will be sent to Cotija to fund civic projects in that community.

Arana said the multi-cultural festival coincides with the annual celebration of Mexican "charros," or cowboys. Several charros from Mexico will join their Perris-based colleagues in the parade. Also in Perris for the festival will be the governor of the Mexican state of Michoacan, representatives of Perris's sister city, Cotija (Michoacan) and other dignitaries from Mexico.

Folklorico dancing and mariachi music are part of the event as well. According to its facebook page, Cotija is a "quiet, sleepy town birth place of many religious figures to include Saint [Rafael Guízar Valencia](#).

"Its narrow, peaceful streets lead to the center of town where an imposing church of astonishing beauty awaits. The town offers several well-preserved colonial (mainly religious) buildings. A short walk to the many surrounding hills offers breath-taking views of the city with its narrow streets and red-tile roofs topped off with its imposing church. For a minute, one may think that one is watching a piccolo villaggio in Tuscany, Italy."

Arana says the festival allows Perris residents and visitors to take part in an important part of the City's 100th birthday celebration while celebrating its diverse culture and heritage.

"It's a great community event and we are expecting a lot of people," she said.



The City of Perris Multicultural Festival features the appearance of Mexican cowboys, also known as "charros."



Folklorico dancers took part in the 2010 multicultural festival and will be back in Perris later this month for the 2011 event.



Perris Mayor Daryl Busch holds an American flag while reciting the words to the National Anthem at last year's multicultural festival.